

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03780 271345Z

51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 /117 W
----- 040851

R 271300Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5159

INFO T/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 774

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 3780

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NU

SUBJECT: ELECTIONS 1974: ELECTION RESULTS FURTHER DELAYED

REF: MANAGUA 3530

SUMMARY: SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL HAS DELAYED ANNOUNCING FINAL ELECTION RESULTS UNTIL OCTOBER 1, TWO DAYS AFTER GENERAL SOMOZA RETURNS FROM HIS TRIP TO TAIWAN. THE TRIBUNAL'S TASK HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY FRAUD CHARGES ON THE DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL BY BOTH SIDES AND THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE ISSUE OF ABSTENTION. ITS UNPRECEDENTED LONG SILENCE HAS BLURRED THE IMAGE OF FAIR ELECTIONS WHICH ARE FREE FROM OFFICIAL MANIPULATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 21 THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS FURTHER DELAYING UNTIL OCTOBER 1 THE RELEASE OF FINAL RESULTS FROM THE SEPTEMBER 1 ELECTIONS. WHILE THE ELECTORAL LAW CALLS FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINAL RESULTS BY THE THIRD SUNDAY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03780 271345Z

AFTER ELECTION DAY (SEPTEMBER 22) IT PERMITS POSTPONING THE FINAL

TALLY UP TO AN ADDITIONAL MONTH IF ALL THE RESULTS FROM THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY THE TRIBUNAL. IN ITS RESOLUTION ANNOUNCING THE DELAY, THE TRIBUNAL CITED NONRECEIPT OF TALLIES FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF GRANADA, BOACO, MATAGALPA AND LEON. OPPOSITION PAPER LA PRENSA REPORTED THAT THE TRIBUNAL'S SPOKESMAN HAD LAMELY BLAMED HURRICANE FIFI AS THE CAUSE EVEN THOUGH FIFI HAD OCCURRED 10 DAYS AFTER THE BALLOTING.

3. THE TRIBUNAL CEASED ISSUING TALLIES AFTER SEPTEMBER 5 WITH 2/3 OF THE PRECINCTS REPORTING AND SOMOZA LEADING PAGUAGA, HIS CONSERVATIVE OPPONENT BY A 20:1 MARGIN (MANAGUA 3530). BY THEN DEPARTMENTAL LEADERS OF SOMOZA'S LIBERAL PARTY WERE OUTRAGED BY SURPRISING AND IN AT LEAST ONE CASE (BOACO) HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS CLAIMS OF CONSERVATIVE SUCCESS INSIMULTANEOUSLY HELD MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THREE OF THE FOUR DEPARTMENTS SPECIFIED BY THE TRIBUNAL. THE MUNICIPAL CONTROVERSIES TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNT OF ABSTENTION--THE GON IS PRIVATELY CONCEDED 40 PERCENT WHILE THE PRO-ABSTENTION GROUP OF 27 IS CLAIMING 60 PERCENT--ARE WIDELY SUSPECTED AS THE SOURCE OF THE TRIBUNAL'S DILATORY TACTICS.

4. COMMENT: THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL IS HAVING AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASK SORTING OUT THE CHARGES AND COUNTER CHARGES OF ELECTORAL FRAUD IN AN ELECTION WHERE THE DEGREE OF CULPABILITY RATHER THAN INNOCENCE IS AT ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE FIRST TIME THE CONSERVATIVES HAD AN OPPORTUNITY IN THIS ELECTION TO CHEAT FROM WITHIN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN THOSE SIX DEPARTMENTS WHERE THEY HAD A MAJORITY ON THE ELECTORAL BOARDS. THEY ARE HEATEDLY ACCUSED OF DOING SO BY LOCAL LIBERAL POLITICIANS IN THE QUESTIONED MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

5. THE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL'S UNPRECEDENTED LONG SILENCE HAS TENDED TO FURTHER BLUR THE CREDIBILITY OF AN ELECTION ALREADY BRANDED A MOCKERY BY THE NON-PAGUAGA OPPOSITION. THE FACT THAT THE TRIBUNAL HAS DECIDED TO DELAY THE FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL A FEW DAYS AFTER SOMOZA'S RETURN FROM TAIWAN, AFFORDING HIM AMPLE TIME TO APPROVE ANY DECISION BEFOREHAND, HAS ALSO DETRACTED FROM GON EFFORTS TO PORTRAY THE ELECTIONS AS FREE FROM OFFICIAL MANIPULATION.
SHELTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION FRAUD, VOTING ABSTENTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANAGU03780
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740273-0314
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974098/aaaaaglo.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MANAGUA 3530
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS 1974: ELECTION RESULTS FURTHER DELAYED
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NU, (SOMOZA DEBAYLE, ANASTASIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005